

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
MARCH 17, 2000

- ^ The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, March 17, 2000, at 9:00 a.m., at the Beau Rivage Hotel, in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Members present: Yvonne Brown, Brenda Collins, Sara Fox, Joanna Heidel, Henry Hudspeth, John Junkin, Patricia Puckett, William Seal, Hazel Terry, and George Walker.

Staff in attendance: Dr. Olon Ray, Executive Director, Dr. Randall Bradberry, Becky Cade, Dr. Larry L. Day, Deborah Gilbert, Sandra Lucas, Ron Marcy, Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, and Dr. Evelyn Webb.

Guest in attendance: Michael Gallagher, EdNet; Dr. Ted Alexander, Pearl River Community College; Dr. Willis Lott, Colleen Hartfield, and Dr. Rick Christmas, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College; and Charles Holder, member of the State Workforce Development Council.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman George Walker at 9:05 a.m.

PRELIMINARIES

The invocation was given by Brenda Collins.

Approval of Minutes of February 17 & 18, 2000, Board Meetings

On a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Patricia Puckett, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 17 and 18, 2000, Board meetings.

Review of Agenda

Chairman Walker asked if there were additions to the agenda. Sara Fox asked that an item be added under the Other Section of the Finance Committee Report. On a motion by Brenda Collins, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS/INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Walker asked that all SBCJC Board members, staff, and visitors introduce themselves.

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Olon Ray updated the Board on the status of a Workforce Portal that would allow the world to access information on training and educational opportunities for workforce needs in Mississippi. The information may be made available on the SBCJC Internet website.

Dr. Ray asked Ron Marcy, SBCJC Director of Distance Learning, to give the Board a brief update on the Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC). Mr. Marcy reported that as of

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January 2000 there were 44 instructors involved in development and presentation of on-line courses for the MSVCC. He also stated that the MSVCC is looking forward to successful Summer 2000, Fall 2000 and Spring 2001 semesters as more instructors express interest in developing and presenting new on-line courses. Mr. Marcy also reported on the Mississippi Electronic Library On-Line (MELO) which is now connected to the MSVCC website providing library resources support to students.

The Board requested that Ron Marcy present a demonstration of the MSVCC website at a future SBCJC meeting.

Dr. Ray reported on the status of additional networked services such as ACT Centers, and Assessment Tools that may be added to the MSVCC program.

At the request of John Junkin, Ron Marcy will E-mail the website address of the MSVCC to each SBCJC member.

Dr. Ray gave a brief update on the IHL-USM Lawsuit.

Dr. Ray distributed an Executive Summary with regard to the Mississippi.Future.Net (MFN) for the Board's information (Exhibit A).

Dr. Ray asked for the Board's input on the scheduling of a meeting of the Board members for the Mississippi Community College Public Foundation (MCCPF). After a discussion, a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Patricia Puckett, the Board **voted unanimously** to change the date of the April SBCJC meetings to Wednesday evening April 19 and Thursday April 20, 2000. A MCCPF Board meeting will be scheduled for the afternoon of April 20, 2000, following the Board meeting.

Dr. Ray shared an article that appeared in The Sun Herald, on March 16, 2000, written by Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Board of Trustees' member, Don Massengale, entitled "USM expansion doesn't meet demand for more degree programs" (Exhibit B).

Dr. Ray reported on a meeting with a group that is developing state policy, the Mississippi Economic Development Partnership. The group is comprised of business and government leaders across the state who have pledged to get involved in Mississippi's economic development issues.

Dr. Ray gave a report on the Creating Futures Through Technology Conference held on March 1 and 2, 2000, at the Gold Strike Resort in Robinsonville, Mississippi. There were approximately 300 participants.

REPORTS/ACTION

MACJC Report

With regard to the USM expansion project, Dr. Ted Alexander stated that the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges would unanimously oppose any efforts that provide for duplication of course offerings.

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Dr. Alexander reported on the following items discussed during the February 22, 2000, Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges meeting:

Dr. Ed Ranck discussed with the Association proposed Legislation that would authorize Mississippi's Community and Junior Colleges to participate in a Master Lease Purchase Program.

Dr. Clyde Muse gave an MACJC Legislative Report and Dr. Olon Ray updated the Association on SBCJC activities.

The Association received an update on the lawsuit involving the IHL-USM Gulf Park Expansion.

Dr. Howell Garner gave an update on the Phi Theta Kappa Recognition Program luncheon scheduled for March 29, 2000. All SBCJC members are invited to attend. Dr. Garner distributed a listing of the PTK 2000 All-Mississippi Academic Team, First Team and Honorable Mention winners.

Dr. Alexander reported on staff development meetings with Pearl River Community College Personnel on the proposed budget cuts in community and junior college funding for FY 2001.

John Junkin asked that Dr. Alexander provide SBCJC Board members with more information and background on the proposed Master Lease Purchase Program for community and junior colleges.

Status Report on Lawsuit

Upon Dr. Olon Ray's recommendation, a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to consider going into executive session.

Chairman Walker asked that Dr. Olon Ray, Dr. Willis Lott, Dr. Evelyn Webb, Dr. Ted Alexander, and Sandra Lucas remain in the meeting. The Board room was cleared.

On a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation and negotiations with regard to the IHL-USM Gulf Park expansion issue, due to the fact that discussion in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of this Board.

Chairman Walker then invited the public to return to the Board room and announced the purpose of the executive session. The room was cleared and the Board began the executive session at 9 :45 a.m.

Minutes of the Executive Session

The Board discussed pending litigation and negotiations relative to the Attorney General's opinion issued in November 1998, concerning the IHL-USM-Gulf Park Campus expansion issue.

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After a discussion, a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Yvonne Brown, the Board voted unanimously to consider the negotiations without benefit as of March 20, 2000, and to move forward with litigation.

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by John Junkin, the Board voted unanimously to take a short break and return to open session.

The meeting returned to open session at 10:35 a.m. and the public was invited back into the Board room.

EdNet Report

Yvonne Brown distributed a packet of information regarding EdNet activities (Exhibit C). At the last EdNet meeting Michael Gallagher reported that construction of the Local Origination Site (LOS) microwave links in Jackson has been scheduled for completion by the end of March. A final walk-around by all individuals involved was completed on February 25, 2000, and no problems were found.

Walt Eilers reported that Wireless Solutions is committed to its EdNet lease obligations. In response to concerns expressed that Wireless Solutions is continuing to move away for video Mr. Eilers stated that they are committed to broadcasting analogue programming for the ITFS partners.

Michael Gallagher of EdNet was present and announced that Wireless Solutions announced at a National ITFS meeting that MCI and Wireless One would launch a high speed Internet service using the ITFS frequencies. This service would not stop the video broadcasting on the ITFS channels. Mr. Gallagher reported that the present EdNet contract would have to be amended for that purpose. Two important provisions of the new contract are as follows: 1) to provide a guaranteed monthly income for EdNet, not dependent on the subscriber base, and 2) EdNet would get a percentage of the gross profit derived from the MCI/Wireless Solutions venture.

Dr. Olon Ray asked Mr. Gallagher about a statement that had been made stating EdNet has no prerogative in offering competitive bid negotiations for the use of the ITFS channels. Mr. Gallagher stated that the Federal Communication Commission has awarded Wireless One a BasicTrade Area which includes the entire State of Mississippi. According to Mr. Gallagher, the FCC would have to give their permission for other competitive offers in any contract negotiations, and thus far they have refused to do so. Mr. Gallagher further asserted, if an ITFS partner were to break away and seek competitive offers, Wireless One would file suit immediately, placing that partner in a position of liability. Dr. Ray requested written confirmation of this opinion.

Dr. Evelyn Webb reported that a meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2000, with Wireless Solutions and all effected representatives for EdNet to begin discussing the new expansion route. Representatives of the SBCJC will attend the meeting and bring back information to the Board at the next meeting.

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Finance Report

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Hazel Terry, the Board voted unanimously to approve the April, May, and June 2000 disbursements from General Fund 2298 in the respective amounts of \$9,554,125, \$8,106,598 and \$8,106,596 (Exhibit D).

Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by William Seal, the Board voted unanimously to approve the March 31, 2000, Education Enhancement Fund Disbursement from Fund 4080 and Fund 4110, in the total amount of \$2,376,948 (Exhibit E).

Mrs. Fox presented financial statements for Funds 2291, 3291, and 4300 (Exhibit F) for the Board's information. No action was required.

Dr. Larry Day presented the Capital Improvement Quarterly Report (Exhibit G) for the Board's information. No action was required.

In other business, Mrs. Deborah Gilbert gave an update on House and Senate Sub-Committee recommendations for the fiscal year 2001. The House Sub-Committee has added \$1,500,000 in unallocated one cent growth monies, and \$699,000 for health insurance premium increases. Line items such as One-Stop Career Centers, Rural Health Corps, and Sign Language Interpreter were shifted from House Bill 400 funds to the General Fund. Funding for health insurance and the Golden Triangle Center for Manufacturing Technology would continue to be supported by General Funds. The formula sections, education technology, and capital improvements would be cut by \$13,207,747, \$1,500,000, and \$1,500,000 respectively. The overall effect would be a \$15,298,581 decrease. The Senate Sub-Committee added the \$1,500,000 in unallocated one cent growth monies, but they did not fund health insurance increases. The Senate fully funded One-Stop Career Centers with General Funds and the other increased items that the House Sub-Committee recommended. The Senate Sub-Committee agreed to tap into interest from the Health Care Expendable Fund (tobacco) to fund \$1,200,000 for the Rural Health Corp program and \$6,000,000 for the Associate Degree Nursing program. The overall effect would be a \$7,797,605 decrease in FY 2001 over FY 2000, in the Support Budget.

Program Committee

Joanna Heidel presented a request from Mississippi State University to teach two lower level courses, Philosophy and Psychology in Meridian Community College's district. Upon a motion by Joanna Heidel, and a second by Hazel Terry, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request from Mississippi State University to offer Philosophy and Psychology in Meridian Community College's district.

Workforce Education

Mr. Walker reported that Governor Ronnie Musgrove will meet with the State Workforce Development Council in April. A special called session will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2000, to prepare questions for the Governor.

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The SBCJC voted last month to move the regular meeting to Biloxi in order to participate in the Mississippi Quality Awards Program. Recognition to all winners will be awarded today at a luncheon scheduled immediately following the SBCJC meeting.

Legislative Report

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher distributed a copy of a listing of House and Senate Legislation for the Board's review (Exhibit H). He briefly highlighted bills having a direct effect on the SBCJC and community and junior colleges.

State Adult Basic Education Plan

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher reported that the Mississippi State Plan for Adult Education and Family Literacy has completed the Administrative Procedures process and is now ready for final approval from the Board. Upon a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Hazel Terry, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Mississippi State Plan for Adult Education and Family Literacy. A copy of the plan may be found as Exhibit M of the February 18, 2000, SBCJC meeting.

Approval of Standards for Quality and Accountability

Dr. Evelyn Webb reported that the amendment to the SBCJC Standards for Quality and Accountability related to how State appropriations will be paid for Internet courses has completed the Administrative Procedures process and is now ready for final approval from the Board. Upon a motion by Sara Fox, and a second by Patricia Puckett, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amended SBCJC Standards for Quality and Accountability (Exhibit I).

Election of Officers at April Board Meeting

Mr. Walker reminded the Board that election of officers for the upcoming year would be held at the April meeting. The new officers would take office in July 2000.

Travel Authorizations

Chairman Walker asked for requests to authorize travel reimbursements for events other than regularly scheduled Board meetings. On a motion by Henry Hudspeth, seconded by Hazel Terry, the Board voted unanimously to approve requests for reimbursement of travel expenses for the following:

Patricia Puckett for attending a District Workforce Development Council meeting at, via the CCN at Northwest Mississippi Community College, on February 22, 2000.

Hazel Terry for attending a Nursing Workshop on March 14 and 15, 2000, on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Yvonne Brown for attending a Wireless Solutions, EdNet meeting on March 20, 2000.

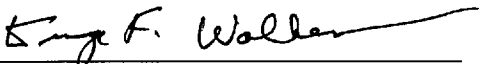
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George Walker for attending the State Workforce Development Council Meeting on March 8 and April 11-12, 2000.

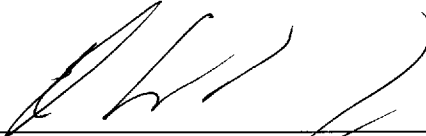
The Board also approved travel for any SBCJC member to attend the Phi Theta Kappa All-State Academic Team Recognition Luncheon on March 29, 2000.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by John Junkin, and a second by William Seal, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m.



George Walker, Chairman



Olon E. Ray
Executive Director